

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Honiton Rural District
1914

HONITON :
E. DIMOND, PRINTER AND STATIONER.


**SUMMARY SHEWING THE PRINCIPAL GENERAL ITEMS OF THE
VITAL STATISTICS, &c., FOR 1914, CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT.**

Area of the Honiton Rural District	....	....	73,054 Acres.
Population at Census, 1911	....	....	9,597
Number of Parishes	....	....	26
Number of Inhabited Houses at Census, 1911	....	....	2,263
Average Number of Persons per House at Census, 1911	....	....	4.2

NOTE.—In comparing the Vital Statistics of the Honiton Rural District with the Statistics of the Rural Areas of Devon, I regret I cannot give the Rates for 1914, as the County Medical Officer of Health does not issue his Annual Report for 1914 till the middle of the year 1915, so I have to accept the years 1912 and 1913 for comparison.

DESCRIPTION.	Average Rate per 1000 of Population in the HONITON RURAL DISTRICT		Average Rate per 1000 of Population for the Rural Districts in the COUNTY OF DEVON.	
	1913.	1914.	1912.	1913.
Birth Rate 	15.7	17.1	18.7	18.5
Death Rate 	10.4	13.9	12.4	12.3
Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Children under 1 year)	59.6*	66.6*	73*	69*
Infectious Disease Death Rate (Excluding Tuberculosis)	1.20	0.20	0.39	0.31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.62	0.52	0.90	1.12
Cancer Death Rate 	0.07	1.2	1.05	0.98

*RATE PER 1,000 OF POPULATION—REGISTERED BIRTHS.



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Honiton Rural District Council

(HEALTH DEPARTMENT).

*To the Chairman and Members of the Honiton
Rural District Council.*

January, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor of presenting to you my Annual Report, and which deals with Public Health matters, and the Sanitary Administration of your District during the year 1914.

I am very pleased to be able to report to you that the Birth Rate, which had in previous years shown a regular decline, has now suddenly taken a good jump up.

On the other hand, I regret to say that the Death Rate is the highest in my records, there being 140 deaths last year, as against 100 in the previous year.

Infantile Mortality shows a slight increase, but this is due principally to several cases of Premature Birth, while the deaths from Infectious Disease remain about the same as 1913.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis shows a decrease of one from 1913, and Cancer, on the other hand, has almost doubled, being 13 deaths as against 7 in 1913.

During the past year, the Local Government Board held an inquiry at Sidbury, *re* the Enlarged Scheme for the Town Planning of the Sid Valley.

In 1913 the County Council held an inquiry at Honiton for the purpose of formulating a scheme for a joint Isolation Hospital, to include the Urban and Rural Districts of Honiton and Axminster, and the Urban Districts of Seaton, Sidmouth and Ottery.

I shall, however, deal with these important schemes, under separate heading, later on in my report.

I think, perhaps, it would be useful if I give a Resumé of the duties expected of a Dist. M.O.H. and Inspect. of Nuisances. This I have taken from the County M.O.H. Annual Report :—

DUTIES OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

ARTICLE XIX.—The following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the District for

which he is appointed ; or if he is appointed for more than one District, then in respect of each District :—

(1) He shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health within the District.

(2) He shall inquire into and ascertain by such means as are at his disposal the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the District, and ascertain to what extent the same have depended on conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

(3) He shall by inspection of the District, both systematically at certain periods, and at intervals as occasion may require, keep himself informed of the conditions injurious to health existing therein.

(4) He shall be prepared to advise the Council on all matters affecting the health of the District, and on all sanitary points involved in the action of the Council ; and in cases requiring it, he shall certify, for the guidance of the Council or of the Justices, as to any matter in respect of which the Certificate of a Medical Officer of Health or a Medical Practitioner is required as the basis or in aid of sanitary action.

(5) On receiving information of the outbreak of any infectious or epidemic disease of a dangerous character within the District, he shall visit without delay the spot where the outbreak has occurred, and inquire into the cause and circumstances of such outbreak, and in case he is not satisfied that all due precautions are being taken, he shall advise the persons competent to act as to measures which appear to him to be required to prevent the extension of the disease and shall take such measures for the prevention of disease as he is legally authorised to take under any Statute in force in the District or by any Resolution of the Council.

(6) Subject to the instructions of the Council, he shall direct or superintend the work of the Inspector of Nuisances in the way and to the extent that the Council shall approve, and on receiving information from the Inspector of Nuisances that his intervention is required in

consequence of the existence of any nuisance injurious to health, or of any overcrowding in a house, he shall, as early as practicable, take such steps as he is legally authorised to take under any Statute in force in the District, or by any Resolution of the Council, as the circumstances of the case may justify and require.

(7) In any case in which it may appear to him to be necessary or advisable, or in which he shall be so directed by the Council he shall himself inspect and examine any animal, carcase, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour or milk, and any other article to which the provisions of the Public Health Acts in this behalf apply, exposed for sale or deposited for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, which is deemed to be diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man ; and if he finds that such animal or article is diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man, he shall give such directions as may be necessary for causing the same to be dealt with by a Justice according to the provisions of the Statutes applicable to the case. He shall also take such action as it may be necessary for him to take by virtue of the provisions of the Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act, 1907, and any Regulations made thereunder.

(8) He shall perform all the duties imposed upon him by any byelaws and regulations of the Council, duly confirmed where confirmation is legally required, in respect of any matter affecting the public health, and touching which they are authorised to frame byelaws and regulations.

(9) He shall inquire into any offensive process of trade carried on within the District, and report on the appropriate means for the prevention of any nuisance or injury to health therefrom.

(10) He shall attend at the office of the Council or at some other appointed place, at such times as they may direct.

(11) He shall from time to time report in writing to the Council his proceedings, and the measures which may require to be adopted for the improvement or protection of the public health in the District. He shall in like manner report with respect to the sickness and mortality within the District, so far as he has been able to ascertain the same.

(12) He shall keep a book or books, to be provided by the Council, in which he shall make an entry of his visits, and notes of his observations and instructions thereon, and also the date and nature of applications made to him, the date and result of the action taken thereon and of any action taken on previous reports; and shall produce such book or books, whenever required, to the Council.

(13) On Monday, the Ninth day of January, One thousand nine hundred and eleven, and on every Monday thereafter, he shall forward to Us by post, at such hour as in the ordinary course of post will ensure its delivery to Us on the following Tuesday morning a return, in such form as We from time to time require, as to the number of cases of infectious disease notified to him during the week ended on the preceding Saturday night. He shall also forward at the same time a duplicate of the return to the Medical Officer or Officers of Health of the County or Counties in which the District is situated.

(14) He shall as soon as practicable after the Thirty-first day of December in each year make an Annual Report to the Council, up to the end of December, on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the District.

In addition to any other matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, his Annual Report shall contain the information indicated in the following paragraphs; together with such further information as We may from time to time require:—

- (a) An account of any influences threatening the health of the District, the prevalence of infectious or epidemic diseases therein, and the measures taken for their prevention.

- (b) An account of all general and special inquiries made during the year.
- (c) An account of the work performed by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year, including the statement supplied in pursuance of article XX. (16) of this order.
- (d) A statement as to the conditions affecting the wholesomeness of the milk produced or sold in the District.
- (e) A statement as to the conditions affecting the wholesomeness of foods for human consumption, other than milk, produced or sold in the District.
- (f) A statement as to the sufficiency and quality of the water supply of the District and of its several parts, and in areas where the supply is from waterworks, information as to whether the supply is constant or intermittent.
- (g) A statement as to the pollution of river or streams in the District.
- (h) A statement as to the character and sufficiency of the arrangements for the drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the District.
- (i) A statement as to the privy, water closet, and other closet accommodation in the District, including information as to the approximate number of each type of privy and closet.
- (j) A statement as to the character and efficiency of the arrangements for the removal of house-refuse, and the cleansing of earthclosets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools in the District.
- (k) A statement with regard to the housing accommodation of the District as required by Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and an account of any other action taken by the Council under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, bearing on the public health.

- (l) A statement as to the vital statistics of the District, including a tabular statement, in such form as We may from time to time Direct, of the sickness and mortality within the District.
- (m) Where the Medical Officer of Health is appointed by the Council of a County Borough, or by a Council having delegated powers under the Midwives Act, 1902, a statement as to the administration of that Act in the District :

Provided that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall resign or be removed before the Thirty-first day of December in any year, he shall as soon as practicable after going out of office make to the Council the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceased to hold office.

(15) He shall forthwith report to Us any case of Plague, Cholera, or Small Pox, or of any serious outbreak of epidemic disease in the District, which may be notified to him, or which may otherwise come or be brought to his knowledge.

(16) He shall transmit to Us three copies of each annual report and one copy of any special report. At the same time that he transmits to Us the copies of his annual report or of any special report, or that he reports to us a case of Plague, Cholera, or Small Pox. he shall transmit a copy of the report or give the like information to the County Council or County Councils of the County or Counties within which the District is situated. Where the Medical Officer of Health is appointed by the Council of a County Borough, or by a Council having delegated powers under the Midwives Act, 1902, he shall also transmit to the Privy Council and to the Central Midwives Board either a copy of his annual report or of that part of it which contains the statement relating to the administration of the Midwives Act, 1902.

(17) In matters not specifically provided for in this Order, he shall observe and execute any instructions issued by Us and the lawful orders and directions of the Council applicable to his office.

(18) Whenever We shall make regulations and shall declare the regulations so made to be in force within any area comprising the whole or any part of the District, he shall observe such regulations, so far as the same relate to or concern his office.

The Board have not infrequently been asked to define the duties of Medical Officers of Health in connection with the analysis of water, the visiting of cases of infectious diseases and other matters.

With regard to the analysis of water, the Board consider that it is the duty of a Medical Officer of Health to inform himself of the character of the water supply of his district and for this purpose to use, when necessary, such minor tests of the water as may suffice to indicate whether further and quantitative analysis or examination is required. It forms, however, no part of his duties, as prescribed by the Board's General Order, to make a quantitative analysis of water. When such an analysis is necessary, the Board are of opinion that the Council should employ any competent analyst to make it and pay him a reasonable fee for doing so. If the Medical Officer of Health possesses the necessary qualifications, and if the time required would not interfere with the efficient discharge of his duties, the Board see no reason why the Council should not make a special arrangement with him to undertake this analytical work. But the officer's remuneration for such special services should not be included in his salary as Medical Officer of Health as no part of such special remuneration would be repayable out of the County Funds.

With regard to the visitation of cases of infectious diseases, the General Order does not prescribe, and the Board do not consider it necessary, that a Medical Officer of Health should visit every such case. Infectious diseases, such as scarlet fever, enteric fever, and diphtheria, however, can be kept under control only by active supervision of all notified cases and by endeavours to discover all cases connected with them, whether "carriers" or sick persons, which may be able to spread infection. To

this end a Medical Officer of Health should make each notified case the starting point for systematic and thorough investigation into possible sources of infection. In conducting such investigations a Medical Officer of Health will bear in mind that the examination of patients in their own homes can be made only with the consent of the patient or of those in charge of the patient. If a medical practitioner is in attendance, his co-operation should always be sought.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.—Article V.—The Medical Officer of Health shall include in his Annual Report information and particulars in tabular form in regard to the number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act, 1909, the number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, the number of representations made to the local authority with the view of the making of closing orders, the number of closing orders made, the number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation, and the general character of the defects found to exist. He shall also include any other information and particulars which he may consider desirable in regard to the work of inspection under the said Section.

ARTICLE VI.—The Medical Officer of Health and any other officer of the local authority shall observe and execute all lawful orders and directions of the local authority in regard to or incidental to the inspection of the district of the local authority under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act, 1909, and the execution of these Regulations.

DUTIES OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

ARTICLE XX.—The following shall be the duties of an Inspector of Nuisances as regards the District or part of the District for which he is appointed (in this Article referred to as “his District”):—

(1) Subject to the directions of the Council, he shall perform, under the general supervision of the Medical

Officer of Health, all the duties specially imposed upon an Inspector of Nuisances by the Public Health Act, 1875, or by any other Statute or Statutes, or by the Orders issued by Us, so far as the same apply to his office.

(2) He shall attend all the meetings of the Council, or of Committees of the Council, when so required.

(3) He shall by inspection of his District, both systematically at certain periods, and at intervals as occasion may require, keep himself informed in respect of the nuisances existing therein that require abatement.

(4) On receiving notice of the existence of any nuisance within his District, or of the breach of any byelaws or regulations made by the Council for the suppression of nuisances, he shall, as early as practicable, visit the spot, and inquire into such alleged nuisance or breach of byelaws or regulations.

(5) He shall report to the Council any noxious or offensive businesses, trades, or manufactories established within his District, and the breach or non-observance of any byelaws or regulations made in respect thereof.

(6) He shall report to the Council any damage done to any works of water supply, or other works belonging to them, and also any case of wilful or negligent waste of water supplied by them, or any fouling by gas, filth, or otherwise, of water used or intended to be used for domestic purposes.

(7) He shall from time to time, and forthwith upon complaint, visit and inspect the shops and places kept or used for the preparation or sale of butchers' meat, poultry, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour, milk, or any other article to which the provisions of the Public Health Acts in this behalf apply, and examine any animal, carcase, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour, milk, or other article as aforesaid which may be therein; and in case any such article appear to him to be intended for the food of man, and to be unfit for such food, he shall cause the same to be seized, and take

such other proceedings as may be necessary in order to have the same dealt with by a Justice. He shall also take such action as it may be necessary for him to take by virtue of the provisions of the Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act, 1907, and any Regulations made thereunder: Provided that in any case of doubt arising under this paragraph he shall report the matter to the Medical Officer of Health, with the view of obtaining his advice thereon.

(8) He shall, when and as directed by the Council, procure and submit samples of food, drink, or drugs suspected to be adulterated, to be analysed by the analyst appointed under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, and upon receiving a certificate stating that the articles of food, drink, or drugs are adulterated, cause a complaint to be made, and take the other proceedings prescribed by that Act.

(9) He shall give immediate notice to the Medical Officer of Health of the occurrence within his District of any infectious or epidemic disease; and whenever it appears to him that the intervention of such Officer is necessary in consequence of the existence of any nuisance injurious to health, or of any overcrowding in a house, he shall forthwith inform the Medical Officer of Health thereof.

(10) He shall, subject to the directions of the Council, attend to the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health with respect to any measures which can be lawfully taken by an Inspector of Nuisances under the Public Health Act, 1876, or under any other Statute or Statutes, or under any Regulations issued by Us, for preventing the spread of any infectious or epidemic disease.

(11) He shall enter from day to day, in a book to be provided by the Council, particulars of his inspections and of the action taken by him in the execution of his duties. He shall, also, keep a book or books, to be provided by the Council, so arranged as to form, as far as possible, a continuous record of the sanitary condition of each of the premises in respect of which any action has been taken

under the Public Health Act, 1875, or under any other Statute or Statutes, or under any Regulations issued by Us, and shall keep any other systematic records that the Council may require.

(12) He shall at all reasonable time, when applied to by the Medical Officer of Health, produce to him his books, or any of them, and render to him such information as he may be able to furnish with respect to any matter to which the duties of Inspector of Nuisances relate.

(13) He shall, if directed by the Council to do so, superintend and see to the due execution of all works which may be undertaken under their direction for the suppression or removal of nuisances within his District.

(14) He shall, if directed by the Medical Officer of Health to do so, remove, or superintend the removal of, patients suffering from infectious disease to an infectious diseases hospital and shall perform, or superintend, the work of disinfection after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.

(15) He shall if directed by the Council to do so, act as Officer of the Council as Local Authority under the Diseases Acts, 1894 to 1909, the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884, and under any Orders or Regulations made thereunder.

(16) He shall, as soon as practicable after the Thirty-first day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars :

- (a) the number and nature of inspections made by him during the year ;
- (b) the number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;
- (c) the result of the service of such notices.

(17) In matters not specifically provided for in this Order, he shall observe and execute any orders and directions which may be hereafter be issued by Us and the lawful orders and directions of the Council, applicable to his office.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) BIRTHS.

The registered number of Births was 165, as against 151 in 1913.

82 Boys. 83 Girls.

This shows a marked improvement and increases our Birth Rate from 15·7 per 1,000 of the population, to 17·1 per 1,000 of the population.

The Average Rate for the Rural Districts of Devon in 1913 was 18·5 per 1,000 of the population.

This again, although showing an improvement this year, is not nearly satisfactory, as last year, the Birth Rate was the lowest recorded for the past Decennium in the Rural Districts, but as I have before pointed out in my Annual Reports, it is quite in keeping with the general decline going on throughout the country.

Illegitimate Births.

I am exceedingly glad to report that only one illegitimate birth has been reported to me.

(b) DEATHS.

(1) *Number and Rate.*

The number of deaths from all causes registered in the District was 120, as compared with 90 in 1913.

The number of transferable deaths of residents in the District who died away was 20, thus giving a total of 140 for the District and giving a Death Rate of 14·5 per 1,000.

This is considerably higher than 1913, when the total deaths were 100, giving a Death Rate of 10·4 per 1,000.

The General Death Rate for the Rural District in Devon in 1913 was 12·3 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death Rate for the Honiton Rural District has this year shown a big jump upward, and this is chiefly to be accounted for by the fact, that out of the 140 deaths recorded, no less than 75 died after reaching the age of 65 and upwards.

This is more than half the deaths that occurred, and is mainly due to the bad weather we experienced, which caused a great deal of Bronchitis, &c., in the early part of last year.

(2) *Ages at which Death occurred.**Death of Children under 1 year.*

There were 11 deaths of children under 1 year, giving a rate of Infant Mortality of 66·6 per 1,000 Births. This is a slight increase on 1913, when our rate was 59·6.

This slight increase is due to the fact that there were several cases of infants dying from Premature Birth.

The General Death Rate of Infants under 1 year in the Devon Rural Districts in 1913 was 69·0 per 1,000 Births, so although we show a slight increase this year in the Honiton Rural District, I think we may regard the Rate of 66·6 as fairly satisfactory.

(a) *Causes of Infantile Deaths under 1 year.*

7 deaths from Premature Birth.

2 ,, Convulsions.

1 ,, Bronchitis.

1 ,, Diarrhœa.

(b) *Causes of Death in General Death Rate.*

Attributed to—

40 deaths Senile Decay.

18 ,, Organic Heart Disease.

18 ,, Bronchitis.

13 ,, Cancer.

7 deaths	....	Pneumonia.
5	„	.... Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
5	„	.... Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide.
3	„	.... Bright's Disease.
3	„	.... Influenza.
2	„	.... Suicide.
2	„	.... Cirrhosis of Liver.
2	„	.... Diphtheria.
1	„	.... Puerpural Fever.
1	„	.... Tuberculosis Meningitis.
1	„	.... Diseases of Pregnancy.
8	„	.... Other defined Diseases.

Amongst the causes of death calling for comment, I think the following need only be referred to, viz. :—

13 Cancer.

5 Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Cancer.

Deaths from Cancer show an increase this year, 13 having died from this as against 7 in 1913.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

I am pleased to report that the number of deaths are 5 as against 6 in 1913. The Death Rate from this disease has steadily been falling in our District. This is very satisfactory, and I trust next year will still show a further decline.

SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR 1914.

(a) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE, EXCLUDING PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

I am sorry to say, after such a good report in 1913, I have this year to report rather a large increase in Infectious Disease.

It was too much to hope that 1914 would beat or equal 1913, which was a record in our District, as regards the scarcity of Infectious Disease.

The number of notifications received by me, were as follows :—

1914.		1913.	
Diphtheria	.... 16	Scarlet Fever	.... 6
Scarlet Fever	.... 8	Diphtheria	.... 2
Erysipelas	.... 2	Typhoid	.... 2
Typhoid	.... 1		
Puerpural Fever	1		
	—		—
	Total 28		Total 10

The cases occurred in the following parishes :—

Diphtheria.

Cases occurred at :—

Sidbury	....	.... 11 cases.
Branscombe	....	.... 4 „
Farway	...	.... 1 „

Scarlet Fever.

The cases occurred at :—

Plymtree	....	....	6 cases.
Awliscombe	....	....	2 „

Erysipelas.

Cases occurred at :—

Farway	1 case.
Luppitt	1 „

Typhoid.

Case occurred at :—

Feniton	1 case.
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Puerpural Fever.

Case occurred at :—

Harpford	1 case.
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Two outbreaks of Diphtheria occurred, which was exceedingly mild in type, and responded at once to Anti-Toxin, occurred, one in April, 1914, at Knapp Farm, Sidbury, where practically the whole family was attacked one after the other, seven inmates of this farm were attacked in succession. The house was frequently visited by Mr. Redfern, and disinfectant, &c., liberally supplied, but no definite cause was located.

The other, in June, 1914, at Roncombe Farm, Sidbury, where 4 inmates were attended successively. Similar sanitary steps were taken in this outbreak as at Knapp, but no definite cause was located.

The 5 other cases which occurred were also of a mild type, except one. The 4 cases that occurred at Branscombe were spread over 2 months, from November 9th to December 30th, and unfortunately here a boy, aged 9, died of this disease. The other case, which occurred at Farway, was, I have no doubt, the result of the child visiting one of the infected farms.

Scarlet Fever.

The Scarlet Fever occurred chiefly at Plymtree, and was of a very mild type.

Typhoid.

The case of Typhoid, was, I regret to say, imported from Exeter.

The importance of having an Isolation Hospital here for the District has been very much brought home to me this past year. Both the outbreak of Diphtheria at Knapp and Roncombe could have been checked if we had had the means of isolating the patient in a Hospital.

I understand the County Council will very early this year proceed with their scheme for an Isolation Hospital for the combined Districts of the Urban and Rural District of Honiton and Axminster, and the Urban Districts of Seaton, Sidmouth and Ottery.

I understand a site has been secured near Honiton, and the Hospital will have the advantage of the town water, light and drainage, which latter is of great importance in a scheme of this sort. The Hospital will contain 35 beds for Infectious Disease, and adjoining will be also established a Tuberculosis Sanitorium with 20 beds.

(b) PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1914, only 3 cases of the above have been notified me, as against 7 in 1913. This is extremely satisfactory. Two cases were notified at Sidbury, and one at Gittisham, the latter case really belonged to Sidbury, as the patient was visiting Gittisham when he consulted the Doctor.

All cases have been visited either by myself or the Sanitary Inspector, and they have been supplied with spittoons and disinfectants, and also literature dealing with Tuberculosis.

No cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified me in 1914.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The year was exceptionally free of Non-Notifiable Diseases, and epidemics were practically unknown.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Sidbury and Sidford Septic Tanks.

Improvements have been carried out, and they continue to work very satisfactory. The sewer has been extended 200 feet to accommodate two new houses built at Sidford.

Sidmouth Junction.

These works have continued to give satisfaction, and the sewer has been extended 45 feet to accommodate two new houses.

Plymtree.

These works have been cleaned out, but owing to the absence of a good supply of water, have occasionally to be hand flushed, which is very unsatisfactory.

Salcombe Regis.

These works still suffer from flooding as reported last year. The Inspector is laying before you a plan to increase the number of ventilation shafts in due course.

Scavenging.

Refuse is collected once a week at Salcombe Regis, and the number of houses availing themselves of this method of disposing of their domestic refuse has been increased by 12 this past year.

I must impress upon my Council the extreme necessity of compelling every householder to provide a modern covered sanitary dust bin. Some of the householders object to doing this, and so create a nuisance to their neighbours who have provided one for their own use.

Sidmouth Refuse Destructor.

A Local Government Board inquiry was held at Sidmouth during the past year to consider the question of providing a Refuse Destructor at the Gas Works at Sidmouth.

As this would have been a serious and grave nuisance to Salcombe Regis, which has now become a high-class residential area, and a very valuable asset to the Rural District,

it was felt by my Council that we must oppose this scheme with all the means in our power, as it would have meant the absolute spoilation of the best part of our District.

I attended the meeting, with members of my Council, and it was strongly opposed, and I am glad to say, also opposed by certain inhabitants of Sidmouth itself.

The result has been, that the Local Government Board has held up the scheme for the present, and quite rightly too.

SPECIAL REPORT

UNDER THE

Factory & Workshops Act, 1901.

I have received no notices of alteration in the number of factory and workshops in the Districts.

The total on the Register is 45. These have been inspected by the Inspector, and found satisfactory. The bakehouses were clean and sanitary, and the special regulations concerning them are observed.

There are no offensive trades in the District, and no labour is imported for fruit-picking.

No building is now retained for isolation of Small Pox cases.

VACCINATION.

This again shows a very serious increase of conscientious objectors, and now, with the terrible war prevailing is a source of very grave danger to the country, really more grave than the war itself.

MIDWIVES ACT.

As the inspection of the Midwives is now out of my hands, I cannot say how many we have in our District, but from personal experience the shortage is as serious as last year.

I am very pleased to report that Sidbury and districts, acting on my suggestion in last year's annual report, have now a certified Midwife as District Nurse. This is excellent, and I trust will be the forerunner of other parishes amalgamating, and having their own Nurse and Midwife.

BUILDINGS.

Very little building, especially cottage accommodation has been done. Three labourers' cottages at Broadhembury and one at Buckerell have been erected.

The question of cottage accommodation is not now acute owing to so many men having enlisted for the war, but I believe when the war is over there is going to be a great stimulus to the agriculture, and the question will then become acute again.

TOWN PLANNING.

Progress, though very slow, has been made in Town Planning.

As I pointed out last year, the great defect in our original scheme was that the area included was too small, and a second application was made to the Local Government Board to prepare a second scheme to include a larger area, and this has now been done, and the consent of the Board obtained, and it is now intended to treat the two applications as one.

As the scheme develops, I trust my Council will insist on having a sewage outfall of their own, direct to the sea, and for once and for ever do away with the troubles we have now with the Sidmouth Urban District Sewer.

THE RAINFALL.

I am indebted to Mr. G. J. Berry for the following. This record is taken in Honiton, but is a useful guide for the Rural Districts.

THE RAINFALL.—Mr. G. J. Berry, sending from Honiton his annual report of the weather during the year just ending, says:—"During the past year we have had rain more or less, on 228 days, and sunshine on 303 days. The number of rainy days in each month was:—January, 13; February, 20; March, 29; April, 11; May, 17; June, 14; July, 26; August, 19; September, 13; October, 17; November, 22; December, 27. The number of sunshine days was:—January, 15; February, 23; March, 27; April, 29; May, 28; June, 30; July, 28; August, 28; September, 28; October, 29; November 18; December, 20. The coldest nights were:—January 1st, 16 deg. of frost; January 20th and November 24th, 12 deg.; December 22nd, 11 deg.; and November 19th, 10 deg. The coldest days:—January 1st, 4 deg. of frost; January 12th, 20th and 23rd, 2 deg. The hottest days in the sun were:—June 29th, August 17th and 30th, when the thermometer stood at 125 deg.; and the hottest days in the shade, July 1st and August 17th, thermometer 78 deg. Compared with 1913, the number of rainy days in that year was 222, and of sunshine 294; the hottest days then being 118 deg. in the sun and 76 in the shade; the coldest day, December 31st, 12 deg. of frost."

In concluding my Report, I regret the delay in presenting it to you, but my time has been so fully taken up with the troops in Honiton, and the Hospital for Wounded, that I have had very little time for compiling the reports.

My grateful thanks are due to your Clerk, Mr. E. W. Hellier, for his kind assistance to me during the past year, and also to all the members of my Council, who have so kindly assisted me in my duties.

Also to Mr. Redfern, Sanitary Inspector, for the able manner in which he has carried out his duties in 1914.

Appended are Tables, &c., dealing with the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DUNCOMBE STEELE-PERKINS,

*Medical Officer of Health,
Honiton Rural District Council.*



1a.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

ALFRED J. REDFERN,

A.R.SAN.I., M.INST.MUN. E.

*Appointed Inspector under the Housing and Town
Planning Act (1909) on June 22nd, 1912.*

SEWAGE WORKS.

Sidbury and Sidford.

I have continued to carry out improvements to these works, which have given every satisfaction, and the parish is now beginning to reap the benefit of the alterations, for while the works are doing all that is required of them, the annual expenditure is getting less.

The sewer has been extended a distance of 200 feet to accommodate two new houses which have been built at Sidford.

Sidmouth Junction.

These works have given every satisfaction. They require a good deal of watching, and certain small improvements have been carried

out. Although the works are so close to the road there have been no complaints, and I have not noticed any smells in my frequent visits to the works.

The sewer has been extended 45 feet to accommodate two new houses.

Feniton Village.

At the June meeting of the Council I made a special report on the drainage system of Feniton village, which I found was not satisfactory. A special committee also reported on the matter and the Council adopted the committee's recommendation of a new system for the village.

Owing to the outbreak of the war, it was not thought advisable to proceed with the greater scheme for the present, and therefore I have carried out several improvements to the present system. If in the near future there should be distress in the District, due to unemployment, the greater scheme can be proceeded with.

Plymtree.

These works have been cleaned out, and kept in order. The slaughter house, which was at the head of this small system, was

closed early in the year, so that the sewer does not get flushed as previously. I therefore find it necessary to have it hand flushed and the pipes rodded periodically.

Salcombe Regis.

The sewers on the west side are in good condition, although we still suffer from the flooding as stated in last year's report.

I have found it necessary to seal up the open manhole covers on Salcombe Hill, and propose putting before the Council a scheme for increasing the number of ventilation shafts in this part during 1915.

SCAVENGING.

During the year I have increased the number of houses in Salcombe Regis from which we collect domestic refuse by 12. The work has been done satisfactorily once every week. I have had a little trouble with a few occupiers and owners to get them to provide proper covered sanitary dust bins, but I have usually been successful in getting this done. It is important that the Council should always insist on these proper dust bins being used, and so prevent the grave nuisance which always occurs when open receptacles are allowed.

BUILDINGS.

Three new cottages for labourers have been erected at Broadhembury, and one at Buckerell. Two artisan dwellings have been erected at Sidmouth Junction, and a bungalow at Hembury Fort, Payhembury. No plans were submitted to the Council for these buildings, as we have no Bye Laws in these parishes.

They are well built, and the drainage and water supply is satisfactory.

Plans for four residences were approved by the Council in the early part of the year, and these are now completed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Several minor improvements have been carried out to some of the existing slaughter houses. I have not thought it wise to ask for much alterations to the existing buildings, as in most cases the buildings are unsuitable, and I am hoping to get better buildings erected.

Two slaughter houses have been closed, one at Plymtree and one at Yarcombe.

While visiting in one parish I discovered about 50 lbs. of diseased meat. This was surrendered by the butcher and destroyed.

WATER SUPPLY.

Nearly all the District is supplied with water from wells or springs. The parish of Sidbury is supplied partly from a private system owned by Sir Charles Cave, Bart., and partly from the Sidmouth Water Co.

Sixteen samples of water were taken for analysis. Only six proved to be good and fit for drinking and dietetic purposes. Of the remaining ten, three were closed altogether and a fresh supply obtained, and improvements and alterations were successfully carried out in the other seven cases to purify the supply.

Some time ago I communicated with the Sidbury Manor with reference to the water supply to some cottages in the Hamlet of Harcombe, they have dealt with the matter in an excellent way, and have constructed reservoirs and laid down pipes so that the whole of the Hamlet now have a good supply of water.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

I have found no serious pollution. Occasionally I discover a W.C. likely to pollute the streams which I promptly have removed.

Owing to the Council having instituted the Scavenging at Salcombe Regis, I have had no complaints of refuse being thrown into the Sid, and refuse has not been deposited on the banks as hitherto.

A notice board has been erected warning persons not to throw refuse in the stream at Broadhembury.

COTTAGE ACCOMMODATION.

In August I made a special report to the Council on the number of vacant cottages (if any) in each parish, and their condition.

I found that out of 26 Parishes, 17 had no empty cottages, and those that were vacant in three Parishes were not fit for human habitation. In the whole of the District only 15 vacant cottages were found that could be considered suitable for human being to live in.

At Plymtree one cottage previously falling down has been properly repaired and at once occupied, but another has become vacant and is now untenable. At Broadhembury 3 good cottages have been built by one farmer for his employees.

At Feniton two artisan cottages have been erected, but two labourers' cottages were burnt down and not replaced.

There is not now the urgency in this matter as there was previous to the war, as a number of men have enlisted, and therefore more cottages are vacant.

TOWN PLANNING.

Progress has been made in the Town Planning of the west side of Salcombe Regis. A second application has been made to the Local Government Board for permission to prepare a scheme for the area suggested in last year's report.

The consent of the Board has been granted, and it is now intended to treat the two applications under one scheme of Town Planning.

TABULATED REPORT.

For the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

No. of Visits to Houses	....	...	495
„ Houses Disinfected	....	....	22
„ Visits to Cowsheds, &c.		....	40
„ „ Slaughter-houses		....	39
„ „ Bakehouses		....	10
„ „ Railway Station		....	1
„ „ Schools	....	....	19
„ „ Sewage Works		....	130
Samples of Water taken Analysis		....	16

NOTICES SERVED.

No. of Statutory Notices	....	....	2
„ Informal Notices (by letter)		....	25
„ „ „ (verbal)		....	52
„ Interviews with owners or agents		....	61

RESULTS.

No. of Water supplies improved	....	18
„ Houses repaired and whitewashed		41
„ Dampness cured	.... ....	4
„ Yards paved	.... ....	6
„ Eaves Gutters repaired	.... ....	20
„ New Drains laid	.... ....	6
„ Drains repaired	.... ....	25
„ Closets altered from Privies to Pails		10
„ Closets repaired	.... ....	28
„ Extra Pail Closets provided	....	2
„ Schools disinfected	.... ....	2
„ Plans examined	.... ....	6
„ „ approved	.... ....	6
„ Visits to Buildings in course of erection		64

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

No. of Houses visited (Sec. 17)	....	81
„ „ dangerous and injurious	....	6
„ Representations to L.A.	....	6
„ Closing orders made	.... ....	0
„ Notices under Sec. 15	.... ....	0
„ Remedied without closing orders	....	62
„ „ with „ „	....	0

Table 1.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1909	9318	173	173	18.5	97	10.4	Data		una	vaila		
1910	9318	181	181	19.4	87	9.3	"		"	"		
1911	9318	184	184	19.1	99	10.3	0	12	13	70.6	111	11.5
1912	9597	171	171	17.8	104	10.8	0	10	13	70.6	114	11.3
1913	9597	151	151	15.7	90	9.3	0	10	9	59.6	100	10.4
1914	9597	165	165	17.1	120	12.5	0	20	11	66.6	140	14.5

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 73,054.
Total population at all ages, 9597. Total families or separate occupiers, 2263.
Average number of persons per house, 4.2.

Table 2.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						
	AT ALL AGES	AT AGES—YEARS					
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years
Diphtheria	16		4	8	2	2	
(including Membranous Group)							
Erysipelas	2					1	1
Scarlet Fever	8			8			
Enteric Fever	1					1	
Puerpural Fever	1					1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis....	3				1	2	
Totals	31		4	16	3	7	1

Table 2.—*continued.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.									TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
	Sidbury	Plymtree	Branscombe	Awlescombe	Farway	Luppitt	Harford	Feniton	Gittisham	
Diphtheria	11		4		1					
(including Membranous Group)										
Erysipelas				2	1	1		1		1
Scarlet Fever		6								
Enteric Fever							1			
Puerperal Fever									1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2									
Totals	13	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1

Table 3.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING
THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district								Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the district
	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1 & under 2 years	2 & under 5 years	5 & under 15 years	15 & under 25 years	25 & under 45 years	45 & under 65 years	65 and upwards
Total causes certified	140	11	0	0	5	5	17	27	75
Diphtheria and Croup	2				2		1	1	1
Influenza	3						1	1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5						3	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	1				1				
Cancer, malignant disease	13						1	8	4
Organic Heart Disease	18				1			3	14
Bronchitis	18	1						2	15

Pneumonia (all forms)	....	....	7						1		2	1	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	....	....	1	1									
Cirrhosis of Liver	....	....	2								1	1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	....	....	3							1	1		1
Puerperal Fever	....	....	1								1		
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	....	....	1										
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	....	....	10	9						1			
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	....	....	5							2	1	1	1
Suicide	....	....	2								1	1	
Other Defined Diseases	....	....	8								3	3	2
Senile Decay	....	....	40								2	5	33
TOTALS			140	11	0	0	5	5	5	17	27	75	0

Table 4.—INFANT MORTALITY for 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1--2 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	6 mths. and under 9 months	9 mths. and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
All Causes	Certified	5	3	8	2	1	11
	Uncertified						
Convulsions	....	1		1	1		2
Bronchitis	....					1	1
Diarrhœa	....		1	1			1
Premature Birth	....	1	2	3	1		4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	....	3		3			3
Totals		5	3	8	2	1	11

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate, 164.
 { Illegitimate, 1.
 82 BOYS. 83 GIRLS.

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate Infants 11
 { Illegitimate „ 0

